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The ADVOCATE

An award-winning newspaper published weekly for the Minnesota State University Moorhead community

Fire displaces two students Campus, community band together to help them

By TARVER MATHISON

Staff Writer

The campus and community are reaching out to two MSUM students who lost their home and belongings to a fire on Jan. 30.

Seniors Kasey Hyland, an elementary education major, and Sharon Friedt, a management major, were in their apartment above a home in Dilworth when the fire started.

Neither woman was injured. Hyland was rescued by the owner of the house, Minnesota State Patrol Trooper Randy Harms, whose family also escaped uninjured.

"It was scary," Hyland said. "I heard Sharon screaming from outside and tried to escape, but there were flames at the end of the stairs. I heard Randy screaming, and he came to the rescue. We made it out from there."



JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

This Dilworth home was damaged in a Jan. 30 fire at 108 1st St. N.W. Two MSUM students, seniors Kasey Hyland and Sharon Friedt, who were living in the upstairs apartment escaped uninjured, but they lost most of their belongings.

TO FIRE, BACK PAGE



Reducing risks

Bystander training teaches students how to respond to danger

FEATURES, PAGE 5



Worth the work

Student Academic Conference pays off for students who participate

OPINION, PAGE 6

Waiting to cast



JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Citizens stand in a long line while waiting to vote in the CMU on Tuesday. The local Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party 2008 precinct caucus was held in the CMU Ballroom.

Record numbers of people, especially college students, came out to vote in "Super Tuesday" caucuses across the country.

Core dilemma Curriculum causes concern

By TARVER MATHISON

Staff Writer

Since its creation in the fall of 2006, MSUM's Dragon Core liberal arts curriculum has been a firebrand for criticism.

While it has been praised for its focus on professional skills, it is seen by some as a poorly-implemented program, lacking in the classes students need to graduate.

"There has been a certain amount of unease or lack of confidence with the Dragon Core, for sure," said philosophy professor Randy Cagle.

Having been highly involved in various committees that led to the Dragon Core, Cagle has watched the curriculum develop from the beginning. He knows there's much left to be done.

"There's a general consensus that we need to get more classes and better articulate the program's philosophy," he said. "It's not where we'd like it to be, but it's a work in progress."

Freshman Jordan Stueness agrees.

"It's a good idea, but there really should be more choices," Stueness said. "You only have a few options for classes. It seems to hinder what you

can and can't take."

The lack of options is a sentiment echoed by many, including junior Jessica Vetter. A transfer student from NDSU, Vetter has found Dragon Core's class choices to be an obstacle.

"I've had trouble finding the classes for it," Vetter said. "Also, a lot of the classes that I took at NDSU didn't transfer over. I feel a lot of people are having to make up classes for it, and aren't provided enough to work with."

While class choice is a definite concern, biosciences professor Ellen Brisch feels this is an issue that will soon be resolved.

"We're currently in the process of getting more courses and offerings for students. We're constantly assessing and revising the program to make it better for everyone," Brisch said.

Brisch, who is the chair of the University Dragon Core Committee and member of the Dragon Core Assessment Committee, believes that the curriculum is moving in the right direction.

TO CORE, PAGE 3



Getting "Lost"

Season four provides some answers, but keeps fans guessing

A&E, PAGE 8



Serve's up, MSUM

Tennis team starts season with home match against Concordia on Friday

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Security Report

1.30 - 2.4

- 1.30 Vandalism in Lot S
- 1.30 Alcohol offenses, drug/ narcotic offenses in South Snarr
- 1.31 Phone harassment in South Snarr
- 1.31 Suspicious persons in South Snarr 4th floor
- 2.1 Alcohol offenses, driving offenses, and trespassing in Holmquist
- 2.2 Alcohol offenses in Lot V-3
- 2.2 Alcohol offenses and found property in Lot N
- 2.3 Animal at large and suspicious persons in Holmquist
- 2.3 Accidental alarm in John Neumaier
- 2.3 Jump start in parking Lot E
- 2.4 Medical call in Flora Frick

Advocate meetings 3:30 p.m. Mondays in CMU 110

The Advocate would like to invite any interested students to their weekly meetings in The Advocate office. Pick up an application today and apply to be a sports writer, staff writer, cartoonist or photographer.

The ADVOCATE

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The Advocate is published weekly during the academic year, except during final examination and vacation periods. Opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body.

The Advocate encourages letters to the editor and your turn submissions. They should be typed and must include the writer's name, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off at The Advocate office in CMU Room 110 or e-mailed to us at advocate@mnstate.edu. The Advocate reserves the right to edit letters and refuse publication of letters omitting requested information. It does not guarantee the publication of any letter.

"Table?"
"Oh, you don't know the pleasure of one big one."

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The Advocate is always looking for talented writers, photographers, columnists and illustrators. Meetings are held at 3:30 p.m. every Monday in CMU 110.

Contact the editor for more information or come to the staff meetings.

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Get help filling out FAFSA

MSUM will host College Goal at 2 p.m. on Sunday in the CMU Ballroom. The moderated event provides step-by-step instructions and assistance for filling out the FAFSA with an emphasis on helping low-income, first-generation families.

Small business forum on Feb. 15

If you're self-employed, own a small business of 10 or fewer employees or are planning to start a small business, you're invited to the free IL 2008 national forum from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 15 at the Center for Business, room 109.

Dragon Ambassador applications due

The Dragon Ambassador program is currently accepting applications for student ambassadors for next year. The Dragon Ambassadors are student representatives for the office of the president, alumni foundation and admissions.

Those selected are able to represent the MSUM student body at events such as alumni banquets, award presentations, convocation, commencement, preview and dragon days and many other functions on and off campus.

Students that are or know a student who would be a good ambassador for our university, please encourage them to apply. Applications are available at The Compass in the CMU, online at www.mnstate.edu/ambassadors and in the admissions office in Owens. The deadline is 4 p.m. on Feb. 29. Call Mark Proulx at 477-2162 for questions.

Financial aid applications due

The 2008-2009 financial aid application priority date of Feb. 15 is fast approaching. In order to receive maximum consideration of all financial aid programs, submit your 2008-2009 FAFSA to the processor by MSUM's priority date of Feb. 15.

Submitting your FAFSA by this date will give you priority consideration for campus-based aid programs (Work Study, Perkins Loan and SEOG).

File the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

You will need your federal PIN to electronically sign the application. For dependent students, both the student and parent must sign the FAFSA. If unable to complete the FAFSA online, please contact the office, 477-2251 or finaid@mnstate.edu for additional information.

Advocate meetings 3:30 p.m. Mondays in CMU 110



JENNY CHRISTEN / THE ADVOCATE

Jasmine Henrich interviews Justin Schroeffer during speed dating night in the CMU Ballroom on Jan. 24.

Daffodil fund raiser kicks off

The American Cancer Society wants to paint our campus daffodil yellow from March 10 to 14. As one of the society's oldest and most beloved fundraising programs, Daffodil Days provides us the opportunity to join the fight against cancer by raising funds and sharing hope for a future where the disease no longer threatens those we love. Daffodil Days volunteers from across campus will take your donations until Friday.

Donators will receive beautiful daffodils, help defeat cancer and bring a touch of spring to the community. Volunteers are ready to take orders.

Play intramural snow football today

The Intramural Department's Tournament Thursday is hosting 7 on 7 Snow Football today at 4 p.m. Any MSUM student or staff member can participate. Winners receive a free T-shirt! If you have any questions, contact the Intramural Department by calling 218-477-2050, e-mail us at intra@mnstate.edu or by visiting our web site at www.mnstate.edu/intramurals. Don't forget to dress for the weather.

Register for Intramurals

Registration for the Intramural Department's first spring session begins Feb. 18. You can register online at www.mnstate.edu/intramurals. Any MSUM student or staff member can participate.

Registration closes on March 12. First spring session activities include hockey, 3 on 3 basketball and dodgeball on Sunday and Tuesday, as well as 4 on 4 volleyball and flag football on Mondays and Wednesdays and indoor soccer on Thursdays. All activities start the week of March 17. Call 218-477-2050, e-mail us at intra@mnstate.edu, or by visiting our web site at www.mnstate.edu/intramurals with questions.

Music on the move

MSUM presents an honors lecture on "Musical Minimalism: A Discussion and Performance" at noon on Tuesday, in the Roland Dille Center for the Arts Gaede Stage. It's free and open to the public.



Feel "The Climate of Antarctica"

"The Climate of Antarctica: Past and Present" is the topic of MSUM's science lecture series at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, in the Science Lab building room 104. It's free and open to the public.

Correction

In the Jan. 31 issue, The Advocate ran an article about the presidential search committee. Any information pertaining to Mark Anfinson or Jack McDonald in that article should have been directly attributed to The Forum. We apologize for this error.

Correction

The following corrections pertain to the Jan. 31 issue of the Advocate. On Page 7, the article about the McGrath writers stated that Mary Logue and Pete Hauntman would visit campus Jan. 31. That date should have been listed as Feb. 7. On Page 10, College Democrats President Scott Haugen was listed as a junior. He is a senior. We apologize for both errors.

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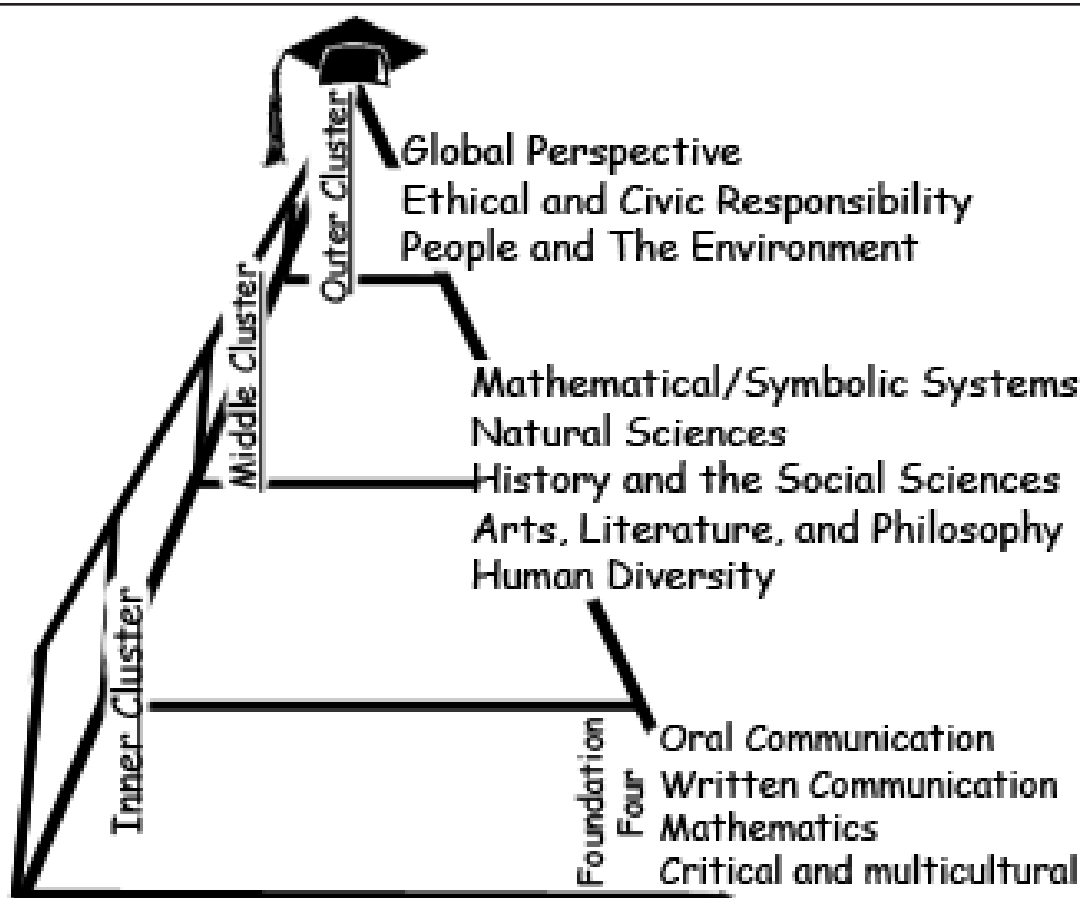
The different clusters of courses in the Dragon Core work as building blocks for one another as students move from foundation skills into application of those skills in interdisciplinary studies.

Dragon Core was created by the Liberal Studies Task Force, a committee made up of faculty, administration, staff, alumni and students.

The new curriculum relies on a strong foundation of skills such as math and reading. It then incorporates other courses that continue to advance the student's knowledge and skills.

According to the MSUM Web site, "Dragon Core provides a meaningful, linked, and coherent general education experience for MSUM students."

Illustration by Brittany Knudson



CORE, FROM FRONT

"It's harder to deliver, but there will be far more choices as we continue to approve of more classes, something we've been doing every week since we started," said Brisch.

Professor Cagle feels that once fully implemented, the Dragon Core will be a beneficial change.

"In the old model, there were no common skills—it was about dipping your toes in various disciplines. This has moved from disciplines to skills," Cagle said. "The primary issue is simply getting the courses on the books to meet the demand. None of the difficulties are unforeseen."

To Brisch, the Dragon Core's focus on skills is its best asset.

"By working on Foundation Four—writing, speaking, thinking, and math—you build on your knowledge," she said. "We felt that our students are increasingly facing more diverse, more global workforce opportunities, and

we want students to be prepared."

This is a focus that some students have already begun to appreciate.

"I like how they're combining these skills, focusing on writing and critical thinking," sophomore Amanda Schumacher said.

"I feel like I'll need it for my major," she said. "There's such a need for being able to write and communicate these days."

While Dragon Core is still in the process of growing, Cagle likes the curriculum's current direction of growth.

"All things considered, I think it's going very well," Cagle said. "The Dragon Core curriculum will serve our students better. Students will have more opportunities to write, to speak, and to build on skills and to put it all together. All in all, it's a better curriculum."

Mathison can be reached at inkblotscribe@gmail.com.



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‘Teacher of the Year’

Biosciences professor Ellen Brisch is one of 46 in nation to receive national recognition



PHOTOS BY JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Above, President Roland Barden, left, presents bioscience professor Ellen Brisch with the “Minnesota Professor of the Year” award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in a celebration ceremony on Jan. 24 in the Science Lab Atrium.

Brisch is one of 46 winners selected from 384 faculty members from various institutions across the country. The Carnegie awards, established in 1981 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education are among the most prestigious distinctions for honoring professors.

For Brisch, who joined MSUM’s faculty in 1999, it is her second national award in two years. She was among 17 college professors selected as “Outstanding Advisors” by the National Academic Advising Association last year.



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Sokolow asks why people don't act

Moorhead Together brings bystander training to improve intervention

By **MICHAEL JOHNSON**
Features Editor

In an example of a situation in which 911 must be called, only 58.7 percent of all MSUM students report they would be "very likely" to call for emergency assistance. This percentage led the Moorhead Together project to bring bystander training to MSUM Monday night to explain the importance of intervening when lives are at stake.

Brett Sokolow, president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, gave the training talk.

Sokolow's challenge to the group of MSUM students was to become an intervener. He asked the attendees, "Why is it people don't care?"

Sokolow owes his life to an intervener who had the nerve to stop a suspicious looking man from boarding a plane with him and hundreds of other passengers.

The man was wearing a pack of plastic explosives under his coat, according to Sokolow.

After going over the reasons that people fail to intervene, he explained the danger of high-risk drinking and the ways to identify when someone has alcohol poisoning.

The Moorhead Together program has been working to lower the high-risk drinking in the tri-college area since fall of 2006. The plan was to lower high-risk drinking by 5 percent over a two-year period, which ends in May.

Susanne Williams is heading the program and says they have surpassed the original percentage.

"It's already dropped significantly," Williams said.

According to Williams, there has been a decline from 59 to 41.6 percent at MSUM alone. MSCTC and Concordia College have also seen a decline in high-risk drinking.

Students attending the bystander training were given a pre-survey and post-survey to fill out at the beginning and end of the training in order to test the effectiveness.

Junior Chad Johannessohn, said that he intervened when one of his diabetic residents ran out of medication and he called 911, which saved the resident's life. When asked about the effectiveness of the bystander training Johannessohn had his doubts, saying, "Nothing changed for me."

He also refused to believe the drop in high-risk drinking, feeling that the surveys cannot show the real facts.

"I haven't seen a drop around here," Johannessohn said.

A fact that the Moorhead Together project's web site reminds is that 41 percent of MSUM students still drink at a high-risk level and nearly 59 percent of the students are not willing to help those students if they are in a fatal situation.

Johnson can be reached at johnsomic@mnstate.edu.



KAYLA WHITAKER / THE ADVOCATE

Brett Sokolow, president of the National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, gave a motivational speech on how to become an intervener, enjoy it and save lives in the process.

Signs of alcohol poisoning

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma, unable to rouse the person
- No response to pinching the skin
- Vomiting while sleeping or unresponsive
- Seizures
- Slowed breathing (fewer than eight breaths per minute)
- Irregular breathing (10 seconds or more between breaths)
- Hypothermia (low body temperature), bluish skin color, paleness

Student Senate Summary: Jan. 31

•Chris Braddock visited Student Senate to discuss the Minnesota House bill that would put the state on the same standard as the "FERPA," a federal law that, among other things, allows universities to give parental notification when a student commits an offense related to alcohol or drugs.

The federal policy leaves it at the discretion of the university. Minnesota's current law prohibits universities from giving parental notification until the student is actually receiving treatment. The bill being considered by the House of Representatives would raise it to federal standards.

•Two MSUM students were victims of a house fire in Dilworth and most of their belongings were destroyed by smoke damage. Accounts for Casie Hyland and Sharon Frident have been set up for

donations.

•Minnesota State University Students Association had their monthly conference at Metropolitan State this weekend, where they discussed the state and federal legislative platform.

•Student senate is looking for dedicated students for the Lobby Core. Get involved with legislators and make your voice heard. You can lobby at the state capital and receive e-mail updates about legislation that affects you. It's great networking and excellent for the resume. If you're interested, contact Mikan Lovcik at mikes_58@yahoo.com.

If any students have any questions or concerns, contact campus affairs chair Kara Brungardt at brungaka@mnstate.edu. You can reach student senate at 218-477-2150 or visit CMU 116B.

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Academic conference lets students show off their work

Each year, the Student Academic Conference comes to the CMU, filling the foyer and hallways with presentations on topics deep in to almost every major on campus. For future reference, this setup is typical of academic conferences in specific disciplines.

If you intend to go to a graduate school, it's almost inevitable that you'll have to make a presentation at a similar conference.

Many colleges aren't able to give their undergraduates the chance to try their hand at formal presentations. Of course, everyone does required in-class presentations, but the opportunity to have your work critiqued by colleagues, professors, community members and other specialists in your field is fairly unique to MSUM's student academic conference.

The important thing is to do research on something that is interesting to you—not necessarily within your major.

Do some digging and put a presentation together about something in the news, or a phenomena that's been on your mind. As long as you have a faculty sponsor and your project is scholarly, it can find a place at the Student Academic Conference.

This is not only a great resume builder, but an exciting and fun experience. Even if you can't find something to submit for this year, going to the conference and experiencing the other posters and presentations can give you ideas for future projects.

Attending the conference can also give you the chance to see what your fellow students have been working on, which might expose you to a topic you had not previously been interested in.

In addition to being great for your resume and personal growth, the luncheon at noon is free to presenters and is fully catered. (However, you have to be a participant in the conference in order to take advantage of the catering.)

The tenth annual Student Academic Conference will be held on Apr. 9, once again in the CMU, and everyone is encouraged to check it out.

The opinions expressed in The Advocate are not necessarily those of the college administration, faculty or student body. The Advocate encourages Letters to the Editor and Your Turn submissions. They should be typed and **must include the writer's name**, signature, address, phone number, year in school or occupation and any affiliations. Letters are due by 5 p.m. Monday and can be sent to MSUM Box 130, dropped off in The Advocate office or e-mailed to advocate@mnstate.edu.

Illustration by John Berdahl / The Advocate



‘Path of debt and threats’ Would a Clinton nomination rally Republicans?

Now that the Republican elites have led America to its current fragile condition, that because of Iraq we are lesser in every way, that so many want change and that the day we might put a woman in the oval office has arrived, it is now likely that the next president will be a Democrat.

The country can regain stability by voting in ways that lead not toward but rather away from more threats and more debt. Scott Haugen, president of MSUM Democrats has endorsed Hillary as the one who can change the condition of this country—and her nomination will indeed change the nation's condition—from yellow to orange.

Nominating Hillary is a sure-fire way to rally Republicans, which will increase the odds of electing one, and in turn increase the likelihood of staying on this path of more debts and more threats, due to more threats the Homeland

Security Department will change our condition from yellow to orange. Therefore, in the name of national security, that old blanket that civilians use to rationalize stupid ideas, let's nominate someone else. As Hillary is counted among those who brought us to Iraq, let's nominate someone else.

Let's nominate someone else for still a greater reason—democracy. Otherwise college students will not gain the perspective to realign a democracy that has become skewed, for if MSUM students are like most others then their view of the executive office directing their country has never been aligned properly.

This office has been shared by two of the smallest minorities and the last time that neither of these elite groups controlled it MSUM students, and probably Mr. Haugen too, were wearing diapers. Let's nominate someone else before the line between democracy

and oligarchy becomes clouded further.

If you dislike my wording then take it up with Webster. If your response is “love it or leave it” then my reply is “if you really love it then fix it”—and while you're at it buy a dictionary. Then perhaps you can help me with my word choice.

When you tell me that democracy is people governing themselves through representatives, then demonstrate who was being represented when the month prior to it 70 percent of Americans opposed the war without UN support.

Then I will demonstrate that government by an elite few, an (oil)igarchy is not concerned about 70 percent of the governed. Then we can hug and ponder the condition of America, had it been awarded to Al Gore eight years ago.

Jimmy Powell
MSUM student

Tobacco policy may not be so wise

Thursday evening, Jan. 24, there was a fire in the construction dumpster behind the art and theater building.

I think it is very probable that someone threw a cigarette butt in with the construction materials and caused this fire.

Luckily, the Moorhead Fire Department put the fire out without serious damage to anything besides the dump-

ster, but it could have been much worse.

The person who threw the butt is certainly responsible, but I believe MSUM is responsible also. When the No Smoking policy was instituted, the “snuffers” (cigarette receptacles) were removed from the campus.

I highly doubt that this policy will stop all smokers from

trying to smoke on the campus, and those who try will have to hide the evidence of their habit.

I don't smoke, and never have, but I don't object to those who want to satisfy their nicotine habit outdoors. Maybe this policy wasn't as wise as some thought.

Ken Brown
Art and Design Department

Ledger's passing stirs religious extremists

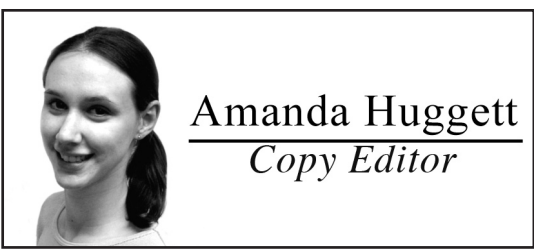
Now that about two weeks have passed since the death of Heath Ledger, a lot of the media hype has moved on and other figures are once again in the spotlight (I think we all know who I mean by this). However, other opinions have started surfacing regarding Ledger.

Just the other day, a classmate told me that they heard comments in the grocery store that he was never a good actor and we are better off with him dead. Fox News channel host John Gibson mocked his death with inappropriate comments regarding his role in "Brokeback Mountain" and

didn't apologize until many days later.

What really struck a nerve with me, though, was the response that a religious group had. The Westboro Baptist Church out of Kansas made plans to picket Ledger's funeral, referring to their movement as "God Hates Fags."

On their publicity poster, referring to him as a pervert, they stated the following: "God hates the sordid, tacky bucket of slime seasoned with vomit known as 'Brokeback



Amanda Huggett
Copy Editor

Mountain'—and He hates all persons having anything whatsoever to do with it... Heath Ledger is now in Hell, and has begun serving his eternal sentence there—beside which, nothing else about Heath Ledger is relevant or consequential" (taken from www.godhatesfags.com).

Wow. All this because of a role in a movie he played?

Aside from the fact that this is an extremist church, this is absolutely crossing the line. Aside from the fact of whether Ledger was a good actor or not, the deceased deserve some respect. Even notoriously insensitive Perez Hilton posted on his Web site that this is the time to lay off, give his family some grieving room and stop the rampant accusations about his death and life.

Years into his career, Ledger began taking roles that challenged him. He didn't want the respect or fame, but it was his duty as an actor. I have heard from a film professor that "Brokeback Mountain" is

a great film. Not only is the scenery spectacular, but you have to give these two young men, Ledger and Gyllenhaal, props for playing a role well that I'm sure they knew was controversial.

But making a personal attack on someone, not to mention someone who has just passed, based on a fictitious role is very much uncalled for. Hearing the words from this church made me sick.

What part of "rest in peace" don't they understand?

Time to lay off?
E-mail Huggett
at huggetam@mnstate.edu.



Money can't buy happiness

My family came to visit me. So, basically they wanted to shop, eat out and swim in the pool at their hotel. I know they really wanted to see me; I just like to give them a hard time about their ulterior motives.

Anyway, we were eating at the restaurant in their hotel when my 13-year-old brother, Nathan, and I began to debate about the differences between men and women in relationships. I recounted a conversation I had with a woman who wisely pointed out that if a man and woman kept points in a relationship regarding who did what for whom, the woman would always win.



Kim Long
Columnist

He argued that men earn money to buy nice things for women. I replied, "Money can't buy happiness." He firmly retorted, "That's a lie." The argument officially ended with a burst of laughter from my whole family.

"Money can't buy happiness." It's a well-known phrase, but its wisdom is certainly not evident in our culture or, apparently, in my little brother's world. Possessions

aren't everything. As college students, our checking accounts remind us to recognize what we can do without. Even so, many of us overspend as is evident by many students' expanding credit card debt.

It's time to reassess our lives and stop overindulging in everything from entertainment to food, especially with money we don't have. Above all else, stop moping about having no money, because "Money can't buy happiness." And I'm not lying!

Poor and happy?
E-mail Long
at kimmyk04@hotmail.com.

Spring fever

Finding common ground with an elusive groundhog



Michael Johnson
Columnist

About this time of year every year the tires of my truck begin growing tired. They are tired, like me, of the snow and ice that they go through every day. This spring fever comes on every February when my tires and I can't wait to break through the frost and get a little mud on each other.

Listening to the radio on Groundhog's Day I heard Bill Clinton telling me that he saw his shadow and there would be six more weeks of winter. It's bad enough that I take my weather predictions from Punxsutawney Phil, but now Bill seems to know my fate as well.

As a pre-teenager I had a trap line that I would check every morning this time of year. I can remember one specific spot where I would see a groundhog regularly sitting on the ridge, by his hole sunning himself in the fall. He wasn't afraid of his shadow, that's for sure, but he was scared of me. Not that I wanted to do any harm to the solitary hog. I was just watching.

He never came out on Groundhog's Day like I assumed he had to. It turns out that it was just an urban legend. Something else I didn't know was the groundhog, which is the same as a wood chuck, actually can chuck wood and if they were to fill up their entire hibernation hole with wood chips, it would take about 700 pounds of chips according to Cornell University.

Thinking about hibernation, sometimes I wish I could curl up into a hole for a few months and catch up on sleep. That groundhog and I had a lot in common. I don't chip wood, but I do want to get out of my hole in the ground soon.

Do you chip wood?
E-mail Johnson at johnsomic@mnstate.edu.



Movies in memory of 'Rusty' Casselton

Students, faculty host tribute in honor of film professor's life

By MAX HEESCH

Staff Writer

Before spring semester began, MSUM lost a dear friend and colleague, Harold "Rusty" Casselton.

Casselton, who died of complications due to cancer Dec.

30, left behind a film department that he helped raise from the ground up with colleague and mentor Ted Larson.

Now, under the watchful eyes of film professors Tom Brandau and Kyja Kristjansson-Nelson, the Cinethusiasts, the university

film club to which Casselton supported immensely, decided to honor Casselton with their own tribute Jan. 31.

Held at Weld Auditorium, the ceremony planned by the Cinethusiasts served as an evening of tribute and reflection for Rusty. More than 100

students, friends and family members were in attendance at the event, where they remembered their late professor, mentor and friend.

A rich array of SodexHo snacks and beverages were provided, along with a huge cake that bore Casselton's trademark "Good Good" phrase etched on top.

Brandau and Kristjansson-Nelson opened the ceremony with warm words of welcome and comfort. They then turned the podium over to anyone who wanted to share stories or memories of Casselton.

"We felt that this was an appropriate opportunity for the students and everyone to express how they felt about Rusty and how much they were going to miss him," said Cinethusiasts club president Staci Woldt.

"Many students didn't get to say their goodbyes at Rusty's wake or funeral, so this is a chance for them to finally do so," she said.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

The late film professor Harold "Rusty" Casselton, second from the left, works with his students. Cinethusiasts held a tribute last Thursday in honor of his work and passion for filmmaking.

Woldt also told a story of the late professor in a 90-minute segment where the audience was encouraged to share their memories of Casselton. Heartfelt stories were in strong supply.

The lights then dimmed and those in attendance were treated to two of Rusty's favorite films. The first of which was an Academy Award winning, animated World War II short titled "Peace on Earth," only one example of Casselton's great love for animation.

The works of silent comedian Charlie Chaplin were also a great love of Rusty. For that reason, Chaplin's "The Kid" was shown immediately following.

Each of the films reflected the legacy of Rusty and everyone in the room felt it.

The ceremony ended with the announcement of a potential commemorative mural in honor of Rusty as a lasting tribute.

The details of the tribute are still being discussed.

The mural would be placed in the basement of the Center for the Arts, where all the students that he had such a strong impact upon can view it.

Heesch can be reached at maxheesch@hotmail.com.

REVIEW

Clever gimmicks keep 'Lost' fans guessing

By JON LAMBERT

Photo Editor

It was a 246-day wait from the season three finale of "Lost" in May 2007 to the season four premiere.

Season three left "Lost" fans wondering who are these people supposedly coming to the island to rescue the survivors of Oceanic flight 815. And how did Jack (Matthew Fox) and Kate (Evangeline Lilly) get off the island in the season finale's flash forward twist?

"Lost" 101

After a mysterious and bloody airplane crash, 48 survivors are left stranded on a Pacific Island and miles off course. While trying to survive physically and socially, it soon becomes apparent that the island has secrets of its own, including the Dharma Initiative, a series of hatches, the "others" (or hostiles) and strange black smoke. There is also more than meets the eye, as it becomes apparent that everyone is connected in some way, and they all have a reason to leave or stay on the island.

Luckily, "Lost" returned last Thursday despite the writers' strike. However, the strike has shortened what would have been a 16-episode season into eight.

Nevertheless, "Lost" has always been a well-written show for one reason: the writers wrote the entire series before the first episode was filmed. It's good to know that they are not making it up as they go along. In addition, the writers have set a deadline for May of 2010 during season six to be the final episode. This only leaves 47 episodes in the series.

Since season one of "Lost" the writers have used flashbacks to the characters past before the plane crash. Now the whole game has changed with the onset of flash-forwards. The writers of Lost talked all through season three that there will be a plot twist involving Jack. They referred to this twist as "the snake in the mailbox" because no one ever expects a snake to be in their mailbox.

The use of flashbacks and now flash-forwards is an innovative way the writers give us a window into the characters' past and now a mysterious future. It has always been

Need to catch up?

Free episodes of "Lost" are available on www.abc.com. Full seasons are also available for rental on Netflix, Blockbuster Total Access or at the Moorhead and Fargo Public libraries.

assumed that the end would be the survivors getting off the island. Now we know that some make it off the island in the future, but it is obvious that something has gone wrong and they have to go back.

As always, "Lost" has answered a huge question with even more questions. Jack and Kate got off the island, but the how, when and why is still left up in the air.

The season four premiere gives more intrigue to the flash-forward premise. In the Jan. 31 premiere, Hurley Reyes (Jorge Garcia) is in the post-island future, getting arrested and going back to a mental institute.

While at the institute he gets many visitors including the deceased Charlie Pace (Dominic Monaghan). Charlie tells Hurley that they need

him, referring to the survivors still on the island. Jack even pays him a visit telling him they should never go back.

Meanwhile, on the island there is a rift between Jack and John Locke (Terry O'Quinn) because Locke doesn't believe anyone should leave the island. Thus, the survivors split up into two groups, Jack and Locke being the leaders. Jack's group heads toward the beach for a supposed rescue and Locke's group goes to a secure location to avoid these dubious rescuers.

The premiere has set up season four with many questions.

The big one being who are these people that are coming to the island for this supposed rescue? The title of the episode ("The Beginning of the End") suggests that they are indeed in trouble.

"Lost" definitely has something for everyone, humor, action, romance and suspense. Even if you are a new viewer to the show and are completely lost (pun intended), www.abc.com has every full episode online for free.

"Lost" airs at 8 p.m. Thursdays on ABC.

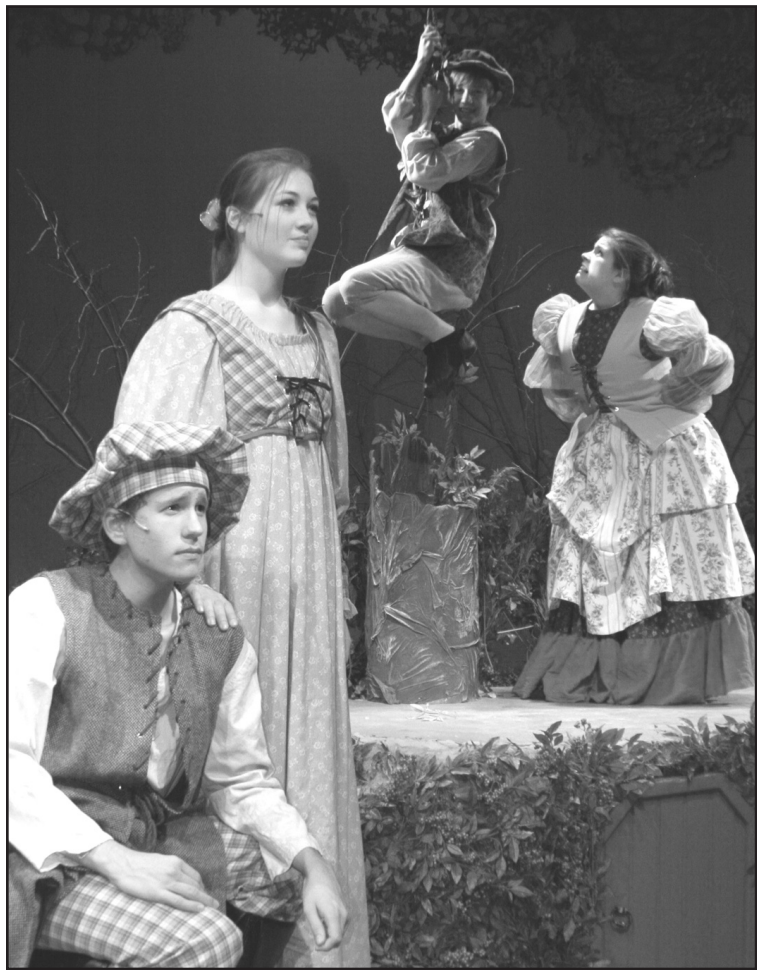
Lambert can be reached at moneyboat@hotmail.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

When Jack (Matthew Fox) finds a way to contact a boat 80 miles from the island, rescue finally seems within reach of TV show "Lost's" characters. But can the boat's crew be trusted?

FMCT's 'Into the Woods, Jr.' to hold food drive



Advocate staff reports

The Fargo-Moorhead Community Theatre (FMCT) will open the delightful youth musical "Into the Woods, Jr." at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

FMCT's mainstage youth production is going "Broadway" with this Stephen Sondheim musical by offering up a cockeyed fairy tale where everyone's favorite characters—Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (and his beanstalk), the Witch and others—meet and interact on their journeys.

"Into the Woods, Jr." will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Fridays

SUBMITTED PHOTO

From left to right: the Baker (Thomas Jacobson), his wife (Erin Schmidt), Jack (Drew Lausch) and Jack's mother (Lori Boucher) all become embroiled in a journey of fairy tale proportions in FMCT's production of "Into the Woods, Jr." The cast is made up of youth ages eight to 18 years of age.

and Saturdays through Feb. 17 with 2 p.m. matinees on Sundays.

Directed by FMCT's education director, Scott Brusven, "Into the Woods, Jr." provides youth actors with the opportunity to play such memorable roles with the sophisticated music of one of the world's most renowned musical composers.

Brusven said: "This production showcases some of the most extraordinary youth performers in our community. This cast is comprised of the best dancers, singers and actors who range in age from eight to 18. I think our audiences will be blown away by the talent that will grace FMCT's stage for this production."

During the run of "Into the Woods, Jr.," FMCT will host a food drive, which will benefit the Great Plains Food Bank in Fargo. Audience members

are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items they can place in Little Red Riding Hood's basket before performances.

Audience members will also be eligible to win a prize by entering their names in a drawing to be held after the production has concluded. No donations are necessary to participate.

As part of Friday's opening night, FMCT will also host an Afterglow Reception where patrons will be treated to free appetizers provided by The Oven Door.

Tickets are available from FMCT's box office at 701-235-6778. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors, \$9 for students and \$6 for children.

Contact us
at advocate@mnstate.edu.

Artsy Alternatives

Art Exhibit

Visiting artist W. David Powell, a graphic design professor at Plattsburgh (N.Y.) State University, presents the exhibit "Between Soft Machines and Hard Science: The Interstitial Art of W. David Powell" now through Feb. 27 in the Center for the Arts gallery.

Plains blood drive

There will be a blood drive at Plains Art Museum from 2 to 5 p.m. today (Thursday). The blood mobile will be parked in front of the museum; those donating blood will be admitted to the museum for free. For more information, call 701-232-3821, ext. 136

McGrath

Authors Mary Logue and Pete Hautman will present "Partners in Crime (Writing)" today (Thursday) in CMU 101 as a part of the Tom McGrath Visiting Writers Series. Both will speak about their craft at 4 p.m., then read from their work at 8 p.m.

Hip hop music

Omaur Bliss, a high-energy live hip hop band from Minneapolis returns to Fargo with new songs, a new look and a new CD. They will perform from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday at the Aquarium in Fargo. Admission is \$4. Hootin' and hollering, partying and outlandish dancing are strongly encouraged.

Honors lecture

As a part of the Honors Lecture Series, music professor Kirk Moss will lead a presentation of "Musical Minimalism: A Discussion and Performance" at noon Tuesday on the Gaede Stage. This overview will also be followed by a performance of Steve Reich's "Violin Phase," featuring F-M Symphony orchestra concertmaster Benjamin Sung and music professor Ryan Jackson.

Concert

The University Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the NDSU Festival Music Hall. For tickets, contact the MSUM box office at 218-477-2271.



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February

9 The Lamont Cranston Band
13 Meandyoucrew, TNT, Lost Angels Crew
14 VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY with Kill Baxter & Serenity
15 Feature Presentation, Faster on Building, Gumbi,
12 oz Epilogue, What the H?

23 Johnny Cash Tribute Show
Cranston Band
March 7 Friends of Yoder
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Aquarium updates its look

Downtown bar, music venue renovates to improve service

Aquarium events

Feb. 8

Omaur Bliss with
Lost Angels Crew
\$5 10 p.m.

Feb. 9

Choolin with
Les Dirty
Frenchmen
and Weapon
\$5 10 p.m.

Feb. 14

Grit and Glitz '08
10 p.m.

Feb. 15

Madonnarama
\$5 10 p.m.



JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

The Aquarium reopened on Jan. 29 after a two-week renovation. The owners built a new oak bar to update its look.

By HEIDI SHAFFER

Copy Editor

After nearly two years of service, the Aquarium has gotten a makeover.

Located on Broadway in Fargo, the bar and music venue was recently remodeled with the help of bartenders and servers to transform it into a stylish new hangout.

The owners of Dempsey's Public House, Bert and Klaus Meyers, originally opened the Aquarium in the upstairs as somewhat of an afterthought. The twin brothers had another building in mind when they began plans to open a bar.

When the building fell through, Bert found the current home of Dempsey's, which happened to have a second floor perfect for the Aquarium.

"Having a building with a second story completely changed our plans," Bert said.

The original focus of the Aquarium was the touring bands that would play upstairs. After a new stage was built, and money began to run short, Bert realized the bar itself would have to be built on a budget, compromising certain details of Dempsey's bar.

Promoter Chris Hennen was primarily in charge of booking the Aquarium's events and hoped to build a strong group of regulars who would come for the bands and stay for the drinks.

"It suffered a bit at first because my shows had previously moved from venue to venue, but eventually people

got there," Hennen said.

Once Hennen got the crowds, obvious problems with the design of the bar arose.

"One problem was that the bar itself was too small, so on busy nights it was pretty difficult for two bartenders (to) efficiently get drinks out in a timely fashion," Josh Voeltz, a bartender and sound technician at the Aquarium, said.

While bartenders collided mid-pour and waited for the other to ring up drinks, patrons sat uncomfortably at the bar.

"It was really uncomfort-

able to sit at because it was so high in the air and made it hard for people to belly up," Voeltz said.

The Aquarium reopened Jan. 24 after a 10-day renovation. The biggest change is the new oak and cherry bartop and back bar, which was designed by Klaus and built by his employees.

To further improve the aesthetic appeal of the Aquarium, employees repainted the walls black, removed the old carpet and retiled sections of the floor. They also added two new televisions and rearranged the booths and tables.

Posters of the nearly 250 shows the Aquarium has held line the walls. Employees were sent shopping at thrift stores to pick up vintage picture frames to house some of their favorite posters.

A sizeable investment was also made to the stage and sound system due to complaints about the excessive noise at shows.

"The PA system received some improvements to make things sound cleaner and more precise and maybe even easier on the ears," Voeltz said.

Hennen looks forward to the improvements to attract

concert-goers to the venue.

"The only complaint I've heard so far is that it looks too nice. My reply has been, 'give it a couple of shows,'" Hennen said.

Upcoming events at the Aquarium include Minneapolis band Choogin,' who will return for the fourth time Saturday at 10 p.m. with local openers Les Dirty Frenchmen and Weapon. For a complete calendar of upcoming events and drink specials, visit www.myspace.com/theaquariumfargo.

Shaffer can be reached at shaffehe@mnstate.edu.

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Rededicating MSUM history

MacLean event celebrates renovation, the Old Main



SUBMITTED PHOTO

During the rededication ceremony on Friday, this 1930s car sat outside MacLean to remind visitors of the building's history. When MacLean was dedicated in 1932, cars were able to drive past the front of the building on what is now the campus mall.

Advocate Staff Reports

The MacLean rededication ceremony on Friday celebrated the building's recent renovation.

The \$10.2 million project was completed this fall, with most of the funding coming from state appropriations.

Just a few more "touch up" jobs remain, most due to hav-

ing to work around fall classes and now winter weather.

In 1931, a year after the original building, Old Main, was devastated by fire, the Minnesota legislature approved funding for the building that would become MacLean Hall.

Raymond B. MacLean, the fourth president of Moorhead State Teachers College, served

from 1923 until 1941, seeing the college through the difficult years of the Great Depression.

Retiring in 1941 because he had reached the mandatory age, MacLean then spent another two years at

the Minnesota Department of Education writing classroom materials related to the Second World War.

MacLean retired completely in 1945 and died in 1947.

During Friday's ceremony, guest were able to take

self-guided tours through MacLean to see the renovations. The also had the opportunity to view photos of Old Main and campus as it was in the 1930s.

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WRESTLING

Huskies, injury bite Dragons

By TIM STULKEN

Staff Writer

After suffering a close 17-15 loss against the St. Cloud State Huskies Friday, the Dragons look forward to improving. Both teams won five matches, all by decision.

The Dragons wrestled hard but have some improvement to do, head coach Keenan Spiess said.

"We're not great yet," he said. "We knew it would be a tough dual. It went as expected, though. There were no pins, and the decision came down to a couple of four-point matches."

MSUM freshman Tallen Wald, wrestling in place of injured sixth nationally ranked senior Shane Walton at 157, said the dual could easily have been won.

"As a team, I would say we wrestled well," Wald said. "We were one match away from it being a totally different dual."

Wald, losing 5-7, said he thought he wrestled well the first two periods but that he needs to work on wrestling all the way through the match.

Walton's injury could have had some effect on the dual, Spiess said.

"Walton is ranked sixth nationally," he said. "It could have had an impact."

Joe Werner's 6-2 victory in the 125 pound weight class could have procured more points for the team, too, Spiess said.

"His opponent wrestled with his hands," he said. "So, Werner couldn't get him in the cradle."

Also winning for the



KAYLA WITAKER / THE ADVOCATE

Junior Tyler Tubbs won his match at 174 pounds, but the Dragons fell to St. Cloud State University 17-15. MSUM won five of the ten matches, but lost in total team points. The Dragons host Southwest Minnesota State University today at 7 p.m. in a NSIC dual match.

Dragons, junior 174-pounder Tyler Tubbs beat his opponent 10-8 in overtime. Another overtime victor, junior 165-pounder Rockie Stavn, beat his opponent 4-2.

he said. "We want to get the first take down and not be satisfied with a couple of points lead."

Wald agreed with Spiess, saying that working on their footwork is important.

"I've been working a lot more on my feet because I feel it's my weakest position," he said.

In addition to working on their feet, the Dragons hope to continue to improve as they progress through this season.

The team's ultimate goal is to qualify as many of its players as possible for the national tournament.

"We want to get ourselves

in a position to get as many kids as possible to the national tournament," Spiess said. "Once a wrestler gets out of the region they have a good chance at becoming an All-American."

The team is working toward winning several upcoming duals as well. The Dragons will be hosting their next two matches. They face Southwest Minnesota State at 7 p.m. today in Nemzek.

Spiess said he hopes to win this dual. Spiess said that he is excited for the Feb. 16 showdown against Division I Portland State.

He explained that he feels

his wrestlers could potentially win this dual as well.

The dual against Portland is scheduled for 3 p.m. at Nemzek.

The Dragons are 10-6 in dual matches and are tied for third place in the NSIC with a 1-1 record.

Last year, the Dragons finished in second place in the NSIC and in 2005-2006 won the conference title, a feat Spiess and the team hopes to do again this season.

Stulken can be reached at stulketi@mnstate.edu.

"We were one match away from it being a totally different dual."

Tallen Wald
Freshman 157-pound
Wrestler

Junior 135-pounder Kelly Janke won 7-5, and freshman 149-pounder Derek Bomstad won 6-2.

The team has been working on attacking more on their feet, Spiess said.

"We have to attack more to put more pressure on them,"

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NOTES FROM NEMZEK

they host Northern State at 6 p.m.

An online auction will be held Friday through Saturday with all proceeds going to the Roger Maris Cancer Center in Fargo.

Basketball teams return home from NSIC road trip

Both the men's and women's teams split their NSIC road games over the weekend.

The men defeated the U of M-Crookston 75-58 on Friday night but lost to Bemidji State 70-54.

The men have a 13-8 overall record and are 6-6 in NSIC games.

The women also defeated Crookston, 74-50. On Saturday night, senior Jessica

Fesenmaier led the Dragons with 35 points and 12 rebounds but the Dragons dropped the overtime game 92-91.

With the split the women moved their record to 13-8 overall and 7-5 in the NSIC.

Tennis team loses opening match

The Dragons launched their 2008 tennis season with a loss to the Concordia Cobbers.

The Dragons lost five of six singles matches to the Cobbers but won two of three doubles matches.

At No. 5 singles, Junior Laura Benz won the only singles match for MSUM.

Nelson, Roemer awarded Athletes of the Week

Senior Kyle Nelson led the Dragons in scoring with 12 points in Saturday's 70-54 loss at Bemidji State. Nelson averaged 11.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game in a pair of NSIC games last weekend.

Junior Ashley Roemer placed first in the 800 meters, with a time of 2:14.1 at last Saturday's Bison Open. Roemer has provisionally qualified for the 2008 division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Think Pink weekend

The women's basketball team will be wearing pink jerseys showing awareness for breast cancer on Friday when



THIS WEEK AT NEMZEK...



Men's Basketball: 2/8 Northern State 8 p.m.
2/9 Mary 8 p.m.

Women's Basketball: 2/8 Northern State 6 p.m.
2/9 Mary 6 p.m.

Wrestling: Today (2/7) Southwest Minnesota State 7 p.m.

Tennis: 2/8 Minnesota Crookston 6 p.m.
2/10 St. Benedict's noon

Note: Tennis plays home games at Courts Plus in Fargo.

Track team successful at Cobber, Bison Opens

By RYAN STIEG
Staff Writer

Track and field is one of those obscure sports on college campuses. Most eyes are focused on sports such as football and basketball.

However, the Dragon team is changing that perception. They are making some noise in the NSIC as well as the nation, and they have put forth some quality showings so far this season.

"Things are going great on the team. We have had some really great performances so far," head coach Keith Barnier said.

The Cobber Duals was a meet where MSUM shined brightly. The Dragons finished in the top 10 in every event and won quite a few of them.

Sophomore Percy Watson had a particularly strong showing winning four events and being named NSIC Athlete of the Week.

Juniors Kyle Eckhoff and Scott Egeberg, and freshman Kels Moreland also performed

well for the Dragons, winning the distance medley relay.

"Our men's team is improving steadily. We have had two good meets, and we just need to keep getting better," Barnier said.

The women's team was also very impressive at the duals.

Junior Ashley Roemer won the 600 meter race and is currently ranked third in the nation.

She was the team's pentathlon champion and competed nationally in the high jump last year.

Junior captain Jennifer Hensel also did well, winning the pole vault competition with a vault of 3.81 meters. She is currently ranked second in the nation and is an Academic All-American.

Just like the men, the Dragon women also won the distance medley. The team of Roemer, Allison Streyle, Sarah

Julsrud and Anna VanWechel had a winning time of 12:21.23 and are currently ranked fifth nationally.

"Our women's team is very multitasked, and has a lot of high character. They are willing to do whatever they can to succeed," Barnier said.

Overall, Barnier was pleased with his both of his squads.

"It was very positive. We beat all the other teams, and it was nice for us all to come together," he said.

The Dragons weren't as successful at the Bison Open, but there were still many bright spots.

Watson finished fourth in the 400 meters with a time of 52.83, and Moreland finished fifth in the 1,000 meters with a time of 2:37.86.

Sophomores Adam Kne and Mike McConnell also put forth strong times. Kne finished

“

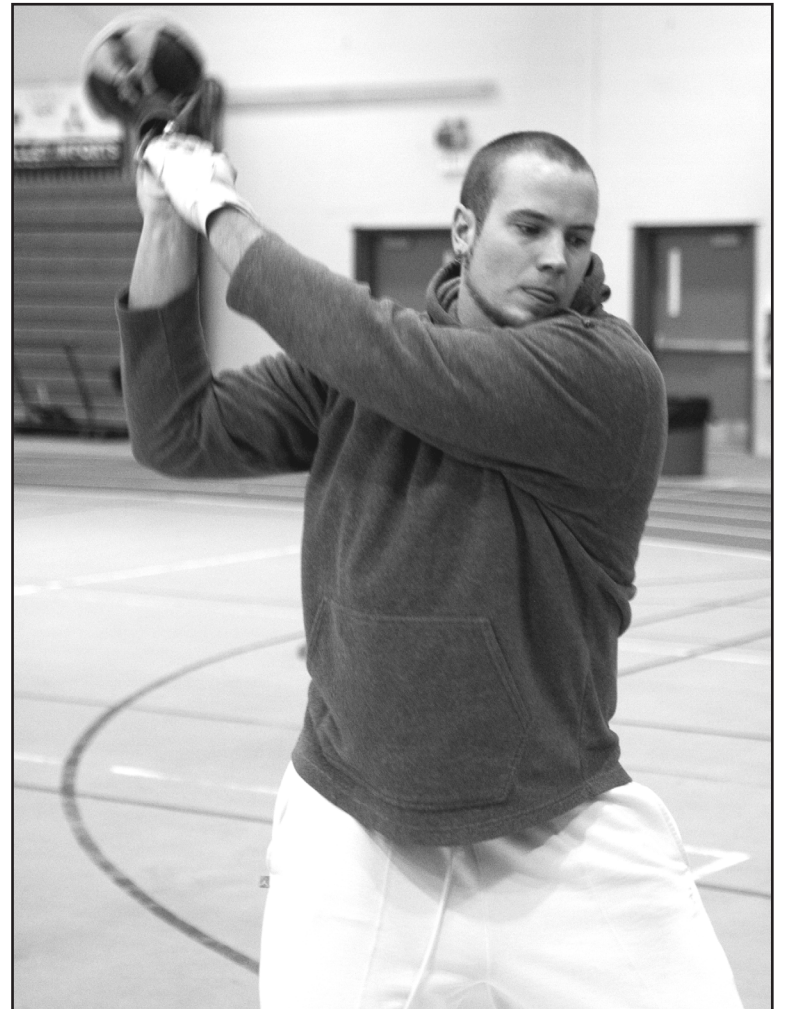
Things are going great on the team. We have had some really great performances so far,”

Keith Barnier
MSUM Track and Field
Head Coach

“

“We just have to keep getting better every week. I want to have depth on my team, and not just some star athletes,”

Keith Barnier
MSUM Track and Field
Head Coach



JON LAMBERT / ADVOCATE PHOTO EDITOR

Junior thrower Matt Boelter practices his hammer throwing with the rest of the men's throwing team. The MSUM indoor track and field team have been successful in all its meets it has competed in.

third in the 3,000 meters, and McConnell finished fourth in the 800 meters.

On the women's side, Roemer won the 800 meters with a time of 2:14.17.

Freshman Danielle Thompson won the 3,000 meters with a time of 10:52.42.

Julsrud also did well, finishing second in the 600 meters and freshman Ashley Hagen finished fourth in the high jump with a leap of 5-02, or 1.57 meters.

The Dragons now head to Bemidji for the Beaver Classic Saturday. What

do they need to do to have another great performance like the one at Concordia?

"We just have to keep getting better every week. I want to have depth on my team, and not just some star athletes," Barnier said.

The track and field team compete indoors until March 14 and 15 when some of the athletes compete at the NCAA Division II indoor championships.

They then to move outside events on March 29.

Stieg can be reached at stiegr@mnstate.edu.

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Student Academic Conference approaches Multidisciplinary conference will come to MSUM in April

By LIZ JOHANSON

Assistant Editor

This spring, the Student Academic conference will be coming back to MSUM for the tenth consecutive year. For many students, it means a flurry of preparation, poster printing and panel preparation. All four of MSUM's colleges highlighted in one day, that director Dr. Andrew Conteh describes as "winning the jackpot."

Conteh has been running and organizing the conference for all 10 years of its existence. He started working on it with his then-student assistant, Ryan Sylvester. Since Sylvester graduated, he has been running the conference by himself.

Conteh said: "I like to see our students involved, I like to watch our students grow and participate in this wonderful event. It is great for our students. I joyfully do it."

Conteh describes the experience as "an ice breaker" and something that can lead to personal growth in self-confidence and public speaking.

"If they do it once, they will have that skill all of their lives," he said.

Since the conference began at MSUM, other colleges and universities have borrowed the idea of a multidisciplinary conference, according to Conteh.

He said: "We are very happy that others have realized that what we are doing is the best preparation for our students. You should always be proud to share an idea that is great, and we are not greedy."

True to this statement, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Students, professors and community members admire the students' work at the student academic conference last year, April 11, 2007, in the CMU. Applications for this year's conference are due at 4:30 p.m. on Monday.

conference at MSUM is open to all students in the forms of posters, panels, presentations and displays of creative work. Conteh encourages everyone to apply.

"This conference is for everyone, not just the select few. It is for us to showcase the work and talent of all of our students," he said.

For students with a fear of public speaking, there's always the poster option. Standing next to a poster displaying the research or work and explaining it to passers-by is a less

intimidating way to begin.

Junior biosciences major Matthew Cole said: "It's a great place to see what's going on in your field and a good way to see what a real academic conference is like. If you're looking into graduate school or further studies, this is where to start."

"Once they have presented one time, they will be willing to come back," Conteh said.

The day itself is a pleasant experience, with sessions in the morning, followed by a free luncheon for presenters

and words from the keynote speaker.

This year's keynote speaker will be assistant professor Karen Branden of the sociology department. Her talk, titled "Dragons roar into a sustainable future" will focus on sustainability and her experiences at MSUM and the Corrick center as positive influences for an eco-friendly life.

The afternoon closes off with more posters and presentations.

"It's a really worthwhile experience," said Cole.

Time is limited.

Applications are due Monday at 4:30 p.m. Students can sign up with a project they've finished for the previous semester or begin a new one in time for the conference on April 9. Applications can be found online at www.appserv.mnstate.edu/acadconf/index.html, or on posters all over campus.

Johanson can be reached at johansel@mnstate.edu.

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Staying safe on campus

Awareness is key to avoiding danger



DEVIN BERGLUND / THE ADVOCATE

Campus security officers are available at all times. Programming emergency numbers into a cell phone reduces the risk of danger while walking alone.

By DEVIN BERGLUND

Staff Writer

That nerve, that one feeling that says it all: "Get out of here, it's not safe."

Those are some of the feelings that people get when they feel that something is out of the ordinary. Safety and security are two of the biggest things that go through a student's mind—especially female students—when they are by themselves.

"One of the main things to remember with safety is that you should always be aware of your surroundings," said Michael Parks, director of campus security at MSUM.

When walking alone, a person should make sure they don't let other things distract them such as iPods or a cell phone.

"It will make it hard to hear if anyone is approaching from behind you," Parks said.

The best plan is to walk with others, then you will be less likely to be pin-pointed. Another thing to do is to stay away from dark areas on or off campus.

In an incident in Fargo more than two decades ago, a female was walking past bushes by a church. She was attacked and raped by a man hiding in the bushes. She survived the attack.

"Let people know where you are going before you go," Parks said.

If you have it mapped out that you will be back at a certain time, then people will know where you are.

Programming speed dials into your cell phone is also very helpful, Parks said. This fits in well with the previous tip because if you ever feel endangered you could always press one number and have assistance. Cell phones can be a life line if used correctly at night, although it can also be a distraction.

Be aware and avoid suspicious people because some people who pass through our campus may not be a part of our community, Parks said.

"I am just always looking because there are some weird people," said sophomore Amber DeVries.

Some people may also feel they are being followed by a car when driving.

If you feel like you are being followed, test the person who is following you by taking different routes to see if they are still following you.

Never stop. If they are still following you, there are a few different things to do:

You can call campus security and they will meet you. Make sure to get the license number, type of car and color.

Another option is to go to a gas station and tell other people.

"Look toward other people and don't isolate yourself," said Tory Jacobson, patrol lieutenant of the Moorhead Police Department.

Just make sure to be aware of your surroundings. Tell others where you are going and take other safety precautions when traveling by foot or by car at night in the F-M area.

Campus security is available at all times and can be contacted at 477-2449.

Berglund can be reached at berglunde@mnstate.edu.

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FIRE, FROM FRONT

The cause of the fire was unknown, but Harms believes it started in the hallway mechanical system, the supplier of heat and water to the students' apartment unit.

The house itself received significant smoke and heat damage to the Harms' living area, and heavy fire and smoke damage to the attached garage and the students' apartment.

Hyland and Friedt lost nearly all their personal belongings in the blaze.

In response to the fire, the Salvation Army and Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross assisted the family, students and firefighters.

The Red Cross provided food, clothing and shelter. On campus, the students' respective colleges have also banded together to assist in getting the students their lives back.

"The response has been extremely good," Hyland said. "They've all helped us out tremendously. Judy Johnson, and professors Dean Malrud

and Ron Messelt all have given me a lot of the things I needed—clothes, necessities, a computer—and they've even offered me places to stay. The Red Cross also gave us sweatshirts, money, and other things we had to get back on track."

From here, Hyland and Friedt focus on getting their lives back in order.

"I plan on starting over," Hyland said. "I'm staying at my sister's old place for now, and just starting over.

I'm student teaching. It's hard to sleep at night, but I could never imagine that people could be so helpful."

Fundraising events have been set up for Hyland and Friedt, who lost everything in the fire.

The College of Business and Industry is collecting monetary donations for Friedt. Please bring your donations to the dean's office in Center for Business 100.

The School of Teaching and Learning is doing an emer-

gency fund drive for Hyland. Donations are being taken in the field experience office.

Accounts have also been established at local banks. Donations for Hyland may be made to the U.S. Bank. Donations for Friedt may be made to Gate City Bank.

Mathison can be reached at inkblotscribe@gmail.com.



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